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SAD NEWS ABOUT TIPPER GORE

CNN and PSYOPS

BY ALEXANDER COCKBURN

CNN is up in arms about our report in the last issue of CounterPunch concerning the findings of a Dutch journalist, Abe de Vries about the presence of US Army personnel at CNN, owned by Time-Warner. We cited an article by de Vries which appeared on February 21 in the reputable Dutch daily newspaper Trouw. De Vries reported that a handful of military personnel from the Third Psychological Operations Battalion, part of the airmobile Fourth Psychological Operations Group based at Fort Bragg, in North Carolina, had worked in CNN's hq in Atlanta.

De Vries quoted Major Thomas Collins of the US Army Information Service as having confirmed the presence of these Army psyops experts at CNN, saying, "Psyops personnel, soldiers and officers, have been working in CNN's headquarters in Atlanta through our program, 'Training with Industry'. They worked as regular employees of CNN. Conceivably, they would have worked on stories during the Kosovo war. They helped in the production of news."

This particular CounterPunch story was the topic of my regular weekly broadcast to AM Live, a program of the South Africa Broadcasting Company in Johannesburg. Among the audience of this broadcast was CNN's bureau in South Africa which lost no time in relaying news of it to CNN hq in Atlanta, and I duly received an angry phone call from Eason Jordan who identified himself as CNN's president of newsgathering and international networks.

Jordan was full of indignation that I had somehow compromised the reputation of CNN. But in the course of our conversation it turned out that yes, CNN had hosted a total of five interns from US army psyops, two in television, two in radio and one in satellite operations. Jordan said the program had only recently terminated, I would guess at about the time CNN's higher management read Abe de Vries's stories.

When I reached de Vries in Belgrade, where he is Trouw's correspondent, and told him about CNN's furious reaction, he stood by his stories and by the quotations given him by Major Collins. For some days CNN wouldn't get back to him with a specific reaction to Collins's confirmation, and when it did, he filed a later story for Trouw, printed on February 25 noting that the military worked at CNN from June 7 on, meaning that a US Army psyops person would have been at CNN only during the last week of the war.

"The facts are", de Vries told me, "that the US Army, US Special Operations Command and CNN personnel confirmed to me that military personnel have been involved in news production at CNN's newsdesks. I found it simply astonishing. Of course CNN says these psyops personnel didn't decide anything, write news reports, etcetera. What else can they say? Maybe it's true, maybe not. The point is that these kind of close ties with the army are, in my view, completely unacceptable for any serious news organization. Maybe even more astonishing is the complete silence about the story from the big media. To my knowledge, my story was not mentioned by leading American or British newspapers, nor by Reuters or AP."

Here at CounterPunch we agree with de Vries, who told me he'd originally come upon the story through an article in the February 17 edition of the French Intelligence newsletter, which described a military symposium in Arlington, Virginia,

(CNN continued on page 6)

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Our Little Secrets

Al's Secret Sorrow

He's loosening up, but those who note a frozen, somewhat haunted look on the veep face should bear in mind a worry that haunts him at many public events. His wife Tipper has manic-depressive mood swings of serious dimension. When the two are in public together, the vice president is in a state of constant anxiety that she will discommode the dignity of the occasion by some rash act or word and draw unpleasant attention to herself. Tipper's own concerns with depression have been no secret, particularly when she became an eager advocate of pharmaceutical products such as Prozac, to the undying joy of Eli Lilly.

Remember Ole Bill?

Bill Clinton went to Selma on March 7 to commerate the 35th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, the afternoon in 1965 when Alabama state troopers, many on horseback, attacked 600 civil rights marchers on Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, beating them to the ground with clubs, dogs and tear gas. In the midst of his homily, Clinton took the opportunity to address outrage in the black community about racial profiling and the Diallo verdict. "As long as African-Americans and Latinos anywhere in America believe they are unfairly targeted by police because of the color of their skin and police believe they are unfairly targeted by their communities because of the color of their uniforms, we have another bridge to cross."

When you look back at Clinton's career, surely it's moments like this that will stand as his true legacy. Only Clinton could get away with defending cops at a memorial to victims of one of the most heinous episodes of police violence, without raising a hackle of protest in the audience or the press corps.

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Banker Hackers In Chaos Bid

When hackers managed to jam Yahoo, e-Bay, CNN and Amazon the air was thick with hysteria about e-terrorists capable of paralysing electronic commerce. The FBI raced to investigate and the Department of Justice used the clamor as launch pad for a demand that Congress appropriate extra billions for the FBI to combat electronic sabotage of the nation's core institutions, which it seems to reckon are e-bay, Yahoo and the others.

Amid all this uproar readers of the weekend edition of the London Financial Times for February 12-13 would have espied the following headline on the front page: "Electronic bond system accuses banks of "sabotage". The FT's story began: "EuroMTS, the largest electronic trading system for European government bonds, yesterday accused two of its bank members of trying to sabotage its system. Gianluka Garbi, chief executive, said it detected two banks bombarding the system with fake price proposals in an apparent bid to slow it down. 'These banks are behaving like computer hackers,' he said."

The fact that two banks stood accused of sabotaging a system that handles more than 30 per cent of all trading volumes in European government bonds and is the main source of liquidity in the market aroused no interest in newsrooms agog about the local e-hackers. EuroMTS handles about $20 billions worth of transactions a day.

According to Garbi, the two banks, which he would not name, were sending millions of price inputs into the system but were not trading on their proposals. At least one of the banks was openly advertising a system competing with EuroMTS. As the FT explained it, EuroMTS is the only electronic trading platform not developed by banks or proprietary traders. It was developed by MTS, the Italian exchange for government bonds.

Although the Financial Times reporter didn't essay any speculation about the identity of the two terror banks, he did note that rival systems include Cantor eSpeed, which also plans to open its platform to internet users, and BrokerTech, which is owned by 12 banks, many of them members of EuroMTS. BrokerTech plans to start trading US treasuries and key European government bonds this year.

Meanwhile, the FBI is now threatening some unfortunate youth in New Hampshire with fifteen years in the slammer for momentarily disrupting e-bay, amazon and the others.

Arizona Shows The Way

The state of Arizona—home of tent city prisons in the blistering Sonoran desert—is so often on the cutting edge in the discipline and punish department. Now comes a proposal in the Arizona state senate to limit prisoners access to the internet. But hold! Surely prisoners don't have direct access to email or the web. Indeed, yet the bill notes fearfully: "The inmate can contact friends, family or an internet service provider via paper mail services in order to post information online from outside the prison. The friend, family member or service provider can then collect any responses to the inmate's posted information and mail those responses to the prisoner, again using paper mail. In this fashion, inmates have access to pen pal services, online chats, and personal web sites."

The sanctions in the measure, HB 2376, are harsh: violation of the law is a Class I misdemeanor; work release credits can be denied or reduced; the prison guards are allowed to review all mail sent to or by prisoners. In fact, the internet has proved a way for people on the outside to have a partial glimpse of what life in US prisons (which now hold nearly 2 million people) are like. And that's what Arizona, which operates one of the most awful prison systems in the country, really fears.

Ahoy There, Kerry!

Every year the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights, founded by Kerry Kennedy Cuomo (and, yes, that senior war criminal Robert McNamara is on its panel of judges), holds a golf tournament as its major fundraiser. Last year the tourney was held at Hyannisport Golf Club and

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raised more than $500,000, mainly through corporate donations. The event allows corporate execs to hack around the links with the likes of RFK, Jr. and Frank Gifford.

The Center's annual report graciously notes the support of three companies in particular, Coca-Cola, Nike and Waste Management. Nike alone has given the center nearly $500,000. Each of these outfits have lousy human rights records. Nike's abuses are well known. Waste Management, the world's largest and most thuggish trash and hazardous waste firm, has come under attack from black activists in Elizabeth, New Jersey, where Waste Management dumps much of NYC's garbage near a largely black town. "Waste Management practices amount to blatant and egregious environmental racism", charges Rev. Joseph R. Parrish, the pastor of the historic St. John's Church in Elizabeth.

The Robert Kennedy Memorial Center's dealings with corporations comes under acrid scrutiny in a new report by Nonprofit Watch, which notes that the Center has also cashed checks from the Gap, Chevron and Reebok. "With her strong political background and connections, Kerry Kennedy Cuomo's involvement in human rights could be a potent force", says Bernardo Issel, author of the report. "This is neutralized by accepting funding from human rights violators and companies that seek to do business in countries that flout human rights. She is fast becoming the Kathy Lee Gifford of the human rights community." The entire report is available online at: www.nonprofitwatch.org.

THE BUSH FAMILY IN ALL ITS FRAGRANCE

A review of George W. Bush's "Pioneers", the elite club of donors who have each contributed more than $100,000 to his campaigns, reveals a bracing catalogue of infamy. Here we find Kenneth Lay, the CEO of the Houston-based Enron Corporation, the global energy giant that is desperate to see the electricity market deregulated at the federal level.

• Here too are the Wylie brothers, the Dallas software tycoons who ran the attack ads on McCain's environmental record. They have contributed more than $210,000 to Bush and have enjoyed overnights in the governor's mansion in Austin.

• Then there's Lonnie "Bo" Pilgrim, head of Pilgrim's Pride Inc., the big chicken processor. Pilgrim has given Bush more than $125,000 and solicited much more from his

A review of W.'s "Pioneers", the elite club of donors who have raised more than $100K, reveals a bracing catalogue of infamy.

friends and cohorts. Pilgrim could do with a few favors in return. His company wants an exemption from state and federal clean water laws so that it can inject more than 500 million gallons of chicken shit into underground wells in west Texas.

• It should come as no surprise that Shell Oil should find in Bush, the master executioner, a man the company can trust and support. After all, Shell is a company that armed private police, called Kill-and-Go Squads, that administered the death penalty against trespassers caught on site in Nigeria. The company was also complicit in the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and 17 Ogoni activists.

• One name in particular catches our attention: Roy Huffington. Huffington is the father of Michael Huffington, who blew more than $25 million of his fortune in a failed bid to win (read: purchase) a seat in the US senate for the state of California. Michael was married to Arianna, the southland's answer to Madam de Stael. They have since divorced and Huffington has sprung from the closet as a gay activist. His father remains an oil baron in emotional preference. Roy, who has given G.W. Bush $20,000 and raised much more, built his oil company, HuffCo, largely by exploiting natural gas reserves in Indonesia. HuffCo maintained a warm relationship with Suharto and the Indonesian generals from 1971 through 1990, when the company was sold to a Taiwanese conglomerate for $650 million. When the Indonesian regime asked the company for help in cracking down on human rights dissidents and labor activists, HuffCo was quick to respond, sending billy clubs, handcuffs and shock batons to Indonesia in the 1980s. The Commerce Department launched an investigation and HuffCo finally plead guilty and paid a $250,000 fine.

• The Bush family should have Indonesia's flag etched into its escutcheon, next to the tennis racket, CIA seal, mirror and rolled up dollar bill. George Bush's brief tenure at the CIA saw some of the worst crackdowns on dissidents against the Suharto regime, with many of the names and addresses of the victims supplied by the Agency.

When "Poppy" Bush left office, he swore that he would never cash in on his high office by going to work for corporations. No sooner said than unsaid. He soon joined the board of "foreign advisors" at Barrick Resources, a Canadian mining company. At the time, Barrick hired Bush the company was trying to win the rights to a large gold and copper mine in Indonesia — the company's biggest overseas venture.

G.W. Bush has also won the approval and money of Jim Bob Moffett, blustery head of Freeport McMoran, the New Orleans-based mining company. Freeport's big project is the Grasberg gold mine, a pharaonic operation in Irian Jaya. The Grasberg mine displaced thousands of Amungme tribespeople, poisoned the main drinking water supply with repeated cyanide spills and dumped tailings on lands traditionally owned by the Komoro tribe. Grasberg has become infamous worldwide for repeated detentions and "extra-judicial killings" by Indonesian "security" troops, partly financed and armed by Freeport.

Of course, the real measure of W.'s worthiness on Indonesian matters is whether he passed the Nike test. Phil Knight, Nike's CEO, rarely gives political contributions directly, perhaps knowing public disclosure of his political preferences could backfire on the company. Instead Knight routes his money through an obscure PAC called the American Success Political Action Committee run by former Gingrich aide turned DC lobbyist, Anthony Roda. This PAC gives exclusively to Republicans and has doled out the maximum contribution to Bush's coffers and much more to the RNC itself.

FOREVER HENRY

Freeport's board is a roosting spot for Henry Kissinger, who receives more than $1 million a year in stock options for his services to the company. With the new government of Abdurrahman Wahid confronted with daily street protests and a frail economy, Kissinger has again been called upon to aid the Indonesian regime. In early March, Kissinger accepted Wahid's invitation to become a special adviser to the Indonesia government on political and social policy. "I responded to the request of the president out of friendship for the Indonesian people and the importance I attach to the Indonesian nation," Kissinger said. "I would like Indonesia to be strong, unified and democratic." CP

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A CounterPunch Journey

Return to Cuba

by Robin Blackburn

The huge demonstration of Cuban women thronging the Malecon on 15 January, protesting against the failure of the US authorities to return Elian Gonzalez, a six-year old, to Cuba was almost unbearably poignant, reminding me, as it did, of a different epoch, with its own tumultuous gatherings and hopes now belied. The organizers had called for a hundred thousand and twice that number showed up. Beyond the particularities of the case the mobilization gave an opportunity for ordinary Cubans to display pride in their country and its social arrangements.

I have seen dutiful and grimly defiant demos in Havana - but those in January were quite different. There is, of course, preparation and organization but also much spontaneity and spirit. The women wave little Cuban flags enthusiastically and give their own tilt to the slogans. There is anger but also good humour as the river of women floods past the 'US interests' section building. There are some speeches, though not from Fidel. As the heroic strains of the International are heard, and then the jaunty lilt of the anthem of the 26th July Movement and the Song of the Heroic Guerrilla, the lump swells in my throat. The past welcomes me in. Today those who want to defend what is best in the revolution are having their hour. The hopes of the sixties may have crumbled like so many of the buildings in old Havana but evidently something has lodged in the people that will not be easily rooted out. Run-down as it is, Havana and its people still have dignity; as one of the veterans in Buena Vista Social Club declares, "We have not chosen the path of possessions".

I spent time in Cuba in the sixties, visiting it on half-a-dozen occasions and living there for six months. I had attended the Tricontinental in 1966 and the Congress of Intellectuals in 1968. I had been part of the crowd at several huge and effervescent rallies. On a dozen occasions I had heard Fidel Castro speak, and been struck by the strange blend of exalted patriotism, haughty Hispanic humanism and Marxism which his orations combined.

By the time I arrived once more in January 2000 the popular elan of the sixties seemed at first to have entirely seeped away. Havana was visibly decaying, most buildings unpainted, some semi-derelict. Here and there was a building that had been repaired by its owner or which had been rescued by the municipal authorities. An exception to the general decrepitude was supplied by the only really dynamic element in the new economy, tourism. To the latter is owed a gleaming airport, finished in 1995, some new hotels and, in Havana, some impressive restorations.

I was myself staying in the Nacional Hotel, overlooking the Malecon, a classic de luxe establishment which first opened in 1930 and which now displays trophies of visits by Winston Churchill, Ava Gardner, Frank Sinatra and Maria Lopez. The privilege of staying at this splendidly restored hotel for about $40 a day is now available to the European tourist willing to travel by Cubana Airways. Once cocooned in the Hotel with its park, decent-sized swimming pool and passable restaurant it would be possible, though absurd, to ignore the life around one. My bed-room window actually made that impossible for me. It overlooked a chunk of the Havana skyline familiar to me from another age. There was the so-called Indochina building, a once-elegant twenty-five storey block with distinctive red panels, the paint on which was now peeling and half washed away. If memory served this was where I had visited the writer Guillermo Cabrera Infante in 1961 or 1962 when he was editor of Lunes de Revolucion, the arts supplement of what was then Cuba's main daily. And just up the street, La Rampa, was the Polynesian restaurant where I had met Che Guevara, shortly after the news had come through that paper shortages would no longer permit publication of the Lunes supplement.

When I asked Che about the paper shortage he launched into an account of the success his ministry was having in making paper from bagasse, the husk of the sugar cane. Then, bringing his response to a close, he looked at me and added with what I took to be a rueful smile: "now I come to think of it the sort of paper you are talking about is indeed scarce." Thereafter most of the writers for Lunes could still, at least for a while, get published, but in more specialist literary journals, not in a newspaper with a circulation of a quarter of a million. At the time Guevara was known as one of the most intransigent of the leaders of the revolution but also as someone who was personally tolerant, giving shelter in his ministry to those of nonconformist bent. The avant garde enthusiasms of Lunes would probably have not have been much to his taste but nevertheless he had got on well with Jean-Paul Sartre, whose writings Lunes had been publishing.

In 1962 La Rampa, which sweeps down to the Malecon past the Hotel Nacional, was handsomely repaved and, in a park at the top, a vast newly-built ice-cream palace, Copelia, claimed to serve more flavors than any Yankee parlor. An exuberantly cantilevered building, it proclaimed that ordinary Cubans deserved the pleasures previously reserved for an elite. Today La Rampa is dilapidated, its inlaid pavements, so bright in memory, uncared for and broken. However, Copelia still serves decent ice-cream, and evidently great efforts having been made to keep it going.

Run-down as it is, Havana and its people still have dignity; as one of the veterans in Buena Vista Social Club declares, "We have not chosen the path of possessions".

The new architecture of the sixties had proclaimed a new set of social values. The delicate, modernist structures of Havana's Schools of Art had proclaimed a new Caribbean style and furnished the perfectly appropriate setting for a new generation while Campo Colombia, the palatial barracks of Batista's army, had been attractively converted into a gigantic school for the sons and daughters of workers and petit bourgeois from the interior. In East Havana so-called 'micro-brigades' of volunteers were given the tools and materials to

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help build their own four-story apartment blocks in an attractive sea-side location. But for much of the seventies and eighties the buildings of the capital were neglected and all resources channeled to the countryside and provincial towns in the name of balanced development. Havana's turn was meant to come in the nineties but by then it was too late.

Although official neglect is part of the explanation for the parlous state of Havana so too has been a faltering of social initiative. The Committees for the Defense of the Revolution on every block make the task of any would-be opposition or dissidence very difficult. But if they are so good at security why don't they work out their own home-made solutions to the problems of repainting and restoration? Friends whom I ask about this explain that people wait for the government to sort out the problem. Amidst the decay one is continually made aware of a paternalist, but, in its own way, highly effective government. There are, for example, schools, nurseries and clinics everywhere, also crocodiles of happily-chattering youngsters. My companion and I find a pleasant private restaurant a short walk from the hotel. As we eat on the veranda we see that the elegant 1920s residence opposite is now a school; as one party returns from a trip, another group of eight or nine year olds practice their ballet steps. We return often, partly because of the cuisine and partly because of the pleasant outlook. But even here one is reminded of the strains of life whenever a 'Camel' passes.

The Camel is a juggernaut-style lorry, converted into a huge articulated bus, often crammed with Cubans, perhaps heading downtown to collect their rations. While crab and pork is on the menu of the palardar in which we are eating, the Cubans will happily collect whatever they are offered in the ration-shop. The school children are fed and many employees will be issued with extra rations at their place of work. But the ration only allows for basic survival and for Cuban city-dwellers nowadays any supplement requires dollars.

At the penal exchange rate of twenty pesos per dollar it is possible for the Cuban to acquire dollars and thus to gain access to the dollar shops in which imported goods can be bought. There are now also markets in which farmers sell their produce for pesos, but at high prices. The more principled and patriotic often lose out. But nevertheless many do have some access via family connections to supplementary income or supplies. And the government skims enough from the dollar economy to be able to re-direct resources to what it sees as priority areas. The problem is not that the state has lost control, as some believe, but rather that it still stifles social initiative.

In the early and mid-90s tourism and the dollar economy led to the appearance of hard currency prostitution. This is now very much discouraged.

In the early and mid nineties the combination of tourism and the dollar economy led to the appearance of hard-currency prostitution in the hotels and their environs. This is now very much discouraged. In striking contrast to so many other American cities - Bogota, or Caracas, or Rio, or Mexico City, or Washington, or Los Angeles - Havana is now very safe, because of the police, the vigilance of the neighborhood committees and a certain sense of orderliness and responsibility. In Quito or Bogota there is a guard with a rifle on every building and you soon learn to read every street scene for signs of danger; in Havana even the police do not seem to be heavily armed.

The visitor has no need to fear physical hassle. But there is still hustle, which for many city-dwellers is almost obligatory as their rations are too low. The tourist is stopped by men offering cigars, or the address of a flat to stay, or of a good restaurant. And even the great majority who disdain such activity still need to make ends meet by petty trading or by borrowing their work equipment to earn some extra on their own account. About a fifth of the houses in Vedado have been repaired, often, one is told, as part of some private trade.

The Cuban regime is not just passively administering the austerities of globalization like so many in Latin America. Flouting the reigning neo-liberal orthodoxy state bodies play an energetic entrepreneurial role, sponsoring breakthroughs in medical research and bio-technology. Cuba's public medical institutes have come up with a vaccine for meningitis. The workings of the US-inspired embargo mean unnecessary death and illness in countries which have been pressured to ban the vaccine and often the same jurisdictions lack an equivalent to Cuba's impressive public health services. Notwithstanding the harmful effects of the embargo on Cuban medicine the island's vital statistics are comparable to those of the United States, far above the Latin American average.

In the countryside sugar cane is less important than it used to be and the area devoted to other crops—citrus, bananas, melons, vegetables, beans, rice—is growing. During the 'special period' Cuban agriculturists were obliged to resort to 'organic' and 'sustainable' cultivation methods and 'inorganic' fertilisers and sprays are still expensive and rare. In a sort of pastoral echo of Buena Vista Social Club, the rediscovery of forties Cuban son, campesinos of advanced years are persuaded to explain how everything was done fifty or sixty years ago, before pesticides and chemicals had really taken hold. (To be continued in our next issue.)

Robin Blackburn *is the author of two volumes on the overthrow of colonial slavery.*

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held at the beginning of February of this year, discussing use of the press in military operations. Colonel Christopher St John, commander of the US Army's 4th Psyops Group, was quoted by French Intelligence's correspondent, present at the symposium, as having "called for greater cooperation between the armed forces and media giants. He pointed out that some army PSYOPS personnel had worked for CNN for several weeks and helped in the production of some news stories for the network." So, however insignificant Eason Jordan and other executives at CNN may now describe the Army psyops intern tours at CNN as having been, the commanding officer of the Psyops group thought them as sufficient significance to mention at a high-level Pentagon pow-wow about propaganda and psychological warfare.

It's impossible not to laugh when CNN execs like Eason Jordan start spouting high-toned stuff about CNN's principles of objectivity and refusal to spout government or Pentagon propaganda. The relationship is most vividly summed up by the fact that Christiane Amanpour, CNN's leading foreign correspondent, and a woman whose reports about the fate of Kosovar refugees did much to fan public appetite for NATO's war, has been in bed with the spokesman for the US State Department, and a leading propagandist for NATO during that war, her husband James Rubin. If CNN really wanted to maintain the appearance of objectivity, it would have taken Amanpour off the story, an option that obviously didn't cross their minds. Amanpour, by the way, is still an advocate for NATO's crusade, most recently on the Charlie Rose show on February 24.

In the first two weeks of the war in Kosovo CNN produced thirty articles for the Internet, according to de Vries, who looked them up for his first story. An average CNN article had seven mentions of Tony Blair, NATO spokesmen like Jamie Shea and David Wilby or other NATO officials. Words like refugees, ethnic cleansing, mass killings and expulsions were used nine times on the average. But the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army (0.2 mentions) and the Yugoslav civilian victims (0.3 mentions) barely existed for CNN.

Maybe CNN was the target of a psyops penetration and was too naïve to notice.

During the war on Serbia, as with other recent conflicts involving the US, wars, CNN's screen was filled with an interminable procession of US military officers. On April 27 of last year, Amy Goodman of the Pacifica radio network, put a good question to Frank Sesno, who is CNN's senior vice president for political coverage.

GOODMAN: "If you support the practice of putting ex-military men -generals - on the payroll to share their opinion during a time of war, would you also support putting peace activists on the payroll to give a different opinion during a time of war? To be sitting there with the military generals talking about why they feel that war is not appropriate?"

FRANK SESNO: "We bring the generals in because of their expertise in a particular area. We call them analysts. We don't bring them in as advocates. In fact, we actually talk to them about that—they're not there as advocates."

Exactly a week before Sesno said this, CNN had featured as one of its military analysts, Lt. Gen Dan Benton, US Army Retired.

BENTON: "Yes, Daryn, I don't know what our countrymen that are questioning why we're involved in this conflict are thinking about. As I listened to this press conference this morning with reports of rapes, burning, villages being burned and this particularly incredible report of blood banks, of blood being harvested from young boys for the use of Yugoslav forces, I just got madder and madder. The United States has a responsibility as the only superpower in the world, and when we learn about these things, somebody has got to stand up and say, that's enough, stop it, we aren't going to put up with this. And so the United States is fulfilling its leadership responsibility with our NATO allies and are trying to stop these incredible atrocities."

Please note what CNN's supposedly non-advocatory analyst Benton was ranting about: a particularly bizarre and preposterous NATO propaganda item about 700 Albanian boys being used as human blood banks for Serb fighters. **CP**

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